warranted by growth in passenger traffic. Allocation on this facility is not maintained separately.

Issuance of Platinum passes to the retired Railway Board members

437. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Platinum passes are being issued to the retired Board members;

(b) if so, the reasons for issuing them these privileges; and

(c) the measures proposed to provide more passenger amenties instead of providing more facilities to Railway Officers?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. However, they are issued Card Passes which have all the attributes of Platinum Pass.

(b) The facility of these passes has been extended to the retired Members of the Railway Board in recognition of their contribution to the Indian Railways.

(c) Provision of passenger Amenities/facilities is a continous process. However, issuance of passes to Railway Officers does not affect passenger amenities.

Rail Ticket Racket

438. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Pioneer' of 24th June, 1997 under the caption "Rail Ticket racket busted";

(b) whether a number of such rackets are functioning in the country, particularly in Delhi/New Delhi causing a great inconvenience to the passengers for getting tickets and the persons working in railway booking offices are also engaged with them and selling tickets to the passengers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action being taken/proposed to be taken against those persons who are involved in such bad practices and measures being taken by Government to stop these things in near future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some cases of touts and anti-social elements indulging in cornering of berths/seats have come to notice of Railways. Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police staff to check the activities of touts and other anti-social elements in and around the reservation offices. The drives against touts were intensified and during April to June, 1997, 174 touts were apprehended by Northern Railway. Action has been taken against them under the provisions of Railway Act, 1989. Railway staff found involved in or abetting such activities are severely taken up for penal action.

उत्तर रेलवे द्वारा फर्जी प्रमाण-पत्रों के आधार पर नौकरियां दिया जाना

439. **चौधरी चुन्नी लाल:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अर्धकुम्भ मेला, 1982 के दौरान, मोबाइल टिकट कलेक्टर के रूप में कार्य करने वाले व्यक्तियों को फर्जी प्रमाण-पत्रों के आधार पर उत्तर रेलवे में नौकरियां दी गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक कितने लोगों को नौकरियां दी गई हैं; और

(ग) इन अवैधानिक नियुक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की गई है/किए जाने का विचार है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।